

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for separation of the phases of a multiphase fluid from one or more wells, the method comprising:

conducting in which a multiphase fluid ~~is conducted~~ to an equipment for the separation of different phases in the fluid from each other, wherein the fluid is selectively conducted to at least one first and at least one second gravity separator in parallel or in subsequent steps depending on the properties of the well fluid and process conditions.

2. (currently amended) A The method according to claim 1, wherein the multiphase fluid is conducted to one first gravity separator or to a group of first gravity separators connected in parallel, in order to be subjected to a first gravitational settling step, and ~~that~~ wherein one of the separation products of that step is conducted to a second gravity separator or group of second gravity separators connected in parallel, in order to be subjected to a second gravitational settling step.

3. (currently amended) A The method according to claim 1, wherein out of a plurality of three or more gravity separators, based on process conditions and properties of the multiphase fluid, one or more separators are selected to become said first separator or separators, the remaining separator or separators being utilised as said second separator or separators.

4. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein said separation product of the first gravitational settling step is subjected to an emulsion-breaking treatment other than gravitational settling before being subjected to the second gravitational settling step.

5. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 4, wherein said emulsion-breaking treatment other than gravitational settling comprises treatment by means of an electrostatic coalescer.

6. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein the multiphase fluid is subjected to a treatment for removal of gas and/or solid particles before being subjected to the gravitational settling in the gravity separators.

7. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein the multiphase fluid delivered to the first and second gravity separators comprises an oil phase and a water phase, and ~~that~~ wherein the separation product conducted from the first gravity separator or group of first gravity separators to the second gravity separator or group of second gravity separators is the oil-richest phase obtained by the gravity settling in the first separator or separators.

8. (currently amended) A system for separating the phases of a multiphase fluid from one or more wells, comprising:

at least one first gravity separator, ~~and~~

at least one second gravity separator, and

means for conducting the fluid from the one or more ~~well or~~ wells to ~~the~~ at least one first

gravity separator and at least one second gravity separator(s), wherein the means for conducting comprising means for selectively conducting the fluid to the first and second gravity separators either in parallel or in subsequent steps depending on properties of the well fluid and process conditions.

9. (currently amended) A The system according to claim 8, further comprising:
at least three gravity separators, and ~~that it comprises~~
means for selectively connecting at least one of the ~~gravity separators~~ at least three gravity separators such that it either belongs to a group of first gravity separators or a group of second gravity separators.

10. (currently amended) A The system according to claim 8, further comprising:
means for connecting the individual gravity separators of a group of first separators or a group of second separators in parallel with each other.

11. (currently amended) A The system according to claim 8, further comprising:
an emulsion-breaking unit that is arranged in series with at least one of the first and the second gravity separator(s).

12. (currently amended) A The system according to claim 8, further comprising:
means for connecting the emulsion-breaking unit in series with and downstream the first gravity separator or group of first gravity separators and upstream the second gravity separator or group of second gravity separators.

13. (currently amended) A The system according to claim 8, further comprising:
a plurality of gravity separators,
a corresponding plurality of first conduits leading from the one or more wells ~~well~~ to each
of the gravity separators, ~~and~~
a valve means for controlling the flow through each individual conduit to the gravity
separator associated thereto, ~~and~~
a circuit comprising a conduit leading from an outlet of a first gravity separator to an inlet
into a second gravity separator, for conducting one of the separation products of the first gravity
separator to the second gravity separator, and
a valve for controlling the flow of said separation product to the second gravity separator.

14. (currently amended) A The system according to claim 13, further comprising:
a plurality of conduits, one for each gravity separator, leading from an outlet of the
associated separator to an inlet of each one of the plurality of separators, for conducting a
separation product to any one of the other ones of the plurality of separators, and
a plurality of valves for controlling the flow of said separation product to each individual or
a group of the separators.

15. (currently amended) A The system according to claim 13, wherein said circuit
comprises ~~the~~ an emulsion-breaking unit, and ~~that~~ wherein the separation product conducted
therein passes through the emulsion-breaking unit.

16. (currently amended) A The system according to claim 14, wherein the plurality of conduits ~~of said circuit~~ that lead from said outlets of the individual separators are gathered to one single conduit, and ~~that~~ wherein there are downstream branches from the single conduit that lead to said inlets of the respective separator.

17. (currently amended) A The system according to claim 8, further comprising:
a plurality of valve-operated conduits, one for each of the plurality of separators, that lead from an outlet of said separators to a following, different treatment step other than gravitational settling.

18. (currently amended) A The system according to claim 8, further comprising:
at least one separator upstream the set of gravity separators, for the purpose of separating gas and/or solid particles from the multiphase fluid before conducting the latter to the gravity separators.

19. (currently amended) A The system according to claim 8, wherein it is a subsea system.

20. (currently amended) A The subsea system according to claim 8, wherein the multiphase fluid comprises an oil phase and a water phase that are to be separated from each other in the gravity separators.